

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 22, 2002. Claims 1-10 and 19-22 are presented for examination. Claims 11-18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1-10, 19, and 20 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 21 and 22 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 7-10, and 19-22 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Claim 6 has not been so rewritten because, for the reasons given below, its base claim is believed to be allowable.

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,870,084 (*Kanungo et al.*).

Cancellation of Claims 11-18 renders their rejections moot.

With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 7-10, 19, and 20, and added independent claims 21 and 22 in terms that more clearly define the present invention. Applicant submits that these amended and newly added independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in claim 1 is a character-string information output apparatus for outputting character-string information supported by a predetermined character encoding scheme. The character-string information output

apparatus comprises search means, extraction means, and character-string information output means. The search means searches, from the external memory, the character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, when output of the character-string information is instructed. The extraction means extracts the character encoding scheme interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus from the character encoding schemes supporting the character-string information searched by the search means, and the character-string information output means outputs the character-string information supported by the extracted character encoding scheme.

An important feature of claim 1 is searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus so as to output the character-string information supported by the character encoding scheme. That is, searching an interpretable character encoding scheme (for example, Shift-JIS) from among the plurality of character encoding schemes representing the character-string information having identical contents, and extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus so as to output the character-string information supported by the extracted character encoding scheme.

*Kanungo et al.*, as understood by Applicant, relates to receiving and rendering multi-lingual text on set top boxes of digital television systems. Apparently, *Kanungo et al.* teaches searching multi-lingual text by font data (glyph). In a case where it is necessary to store and retrieve Unicode characters for languages with a large number of

characters, such as Japanese, Chinese, or Korean, the *Kanungo et al.* system uses a glyph set arrangement that employs hashing means. Also, the character encoding scheme of *Kanungo et al.* is limited to “Unicode”. In contrast, the present invention, as recited in claim 1, uses a plurality of character encoding schemes.

Nothing has been found in *Kanungo et al.* that discloses or suggests searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, and extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output system so as to output the character-string information supported by the character encoding scheme, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is not anticipated by *Kanungo et al.*, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent claims 19 and 20 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to system claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in claim 7 is a character-string information output system that includes a character-string information recording apparatus and a character-string information output apparatus. The character-string information recording apparatus comprises analyzing means and recording means. The analyzing means analyzes a plurality of character encoding schemes supporting character-string information having contents identical with contents of inputted character-string information, and the recording means records the character-string information supported by the plurality of the analyzed character encoding schemes in an external memory. The

character-string information output apparatus comprises search means, extraction means, and character-string information output means. The search means searches, from the external memory, the character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, when output of the character-string information is instructed. The extraction means extracts the character encoding scheme interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus from the character encoding schemes supporting the character-string information searched by the search means, and character-string information output means that outputs the character-string information supported by the extracted character encoding scheme.

Among the important features of claim 7 is analyzing a plurality of character encoding schemes supporting character-string information having contents identical with contents of inputted character-string information. That is, analyzing a plurality of character encoding schemes, such as, in the case of the Japanese language, three kinds of Shift-Japanese Industrial Standard (Shift-JIS), Extended UNIX Code (EUC), and Unicode, supporting character-string information whose contents are identical with the contents of inputted character-string information. Another important feature of claim 7 is searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output apparatus so as to output the character-string information supported by the character encoding scheme, which is similar to the feature discussed above in connection with claim 1.

Nothing has been found in *Kanungo et al.* that discloses or suggests analyzing a plurality of character encoding schemes supporting character-string

information having contents identical with contents of inputted character-string information, nor, as discussed above in connection with claim 1, searching, from the external memory, character-string information having identical contents and supported by the plurality of character encoding schemes, and extracting the character encoding scheme that is interpretable by the character-string information output system so as to output the character-string information supported by the character encoding scheme, as recited in claim 7.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 7 is not anticipated by *Kanungo et al.*, and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent claims 8 and 9 are method and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to system claim 7, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 7.

Independent claims 10, 21, and 22 include the similar feature of analyzing a plurality of character encoding schemes supporting character-string information having contents identical with contents of inputted character-string information, as discussed above in connection with claim 7. Accordingly, claims 10, 21, and 22 are believed to be patentable for reasons similar to those discussed above in connection with claim 7.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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